

## Today's News - Wednesday, June 23, 2010

EDITOR'S NOTE: Apologies for missed posting yesterday - the technology gods decided to chew on our computer for most of the day.

- Rykwert pays tribute to Dennis Sharp, "architect, designer, historian, teacher and dedicated defender of the environment."
- The "collective efforts of the finest, hippest architects and entrepreneurs" in Edmonton results in the NextGen report that includes a statement of civic values that should help shape the city's future.
- Hosey puts blame on BP for the Gulf oil spill, but "the real culprit isn't any oil company, it's consumption itself."
- Kamin x 2 re: mall makeovers - with some winners, some losers, can the mall's "imperfect version of urbanism" cultivate a desire for more of the real thing?
- Uhlir weighs in on Ottawa's watered-down plans for Lansdowne Park landscape: it "lacks the wow-factor that would make it a world-class design."
- An ambitious new plan for Manhattan's Water Street (places for people included).
- Woods Bagot New York has an iceberg-like idea for temporary structures as "architectural placeholders" on stalled construction sites.
- British parks face big budget cuts, but beware: "It is in the best of times that we expect to have great public spaces, but it is in the worst of economic times that we really need them to be great."
- More on de Botton's Living Architecture to get people to "embrace rather than run from modern design."
- Hawthorne comes up with an interesting shortlist of who might follow Eli Broad as L.A.'s architectural patron.
- Plans move ahead for a 42-story condo tower "smack in the middle of the Arts District" in Dallas.
- A conversation with the co-curator of the Irish Pavilion at this year's Venice Biennale.
- Audi sponsors visions of a "car-friendly urban future."
- NYC high school students work shoulder-to-shoulder with some of the city's biggest firms to build a full-size emergency shelter in three hours - "some really strange structures went up."
- AIA names winners of 2010 YAF/COD Ideas Competition for innovative solutions to shelter needs following a disaster.
- A good reason to be in London next week: Columbia GSAPP's C-BIP London Think Tank at the Design Museum.
- We couldn't resist: What one girl in Beijing does when it's hard to find parking (why didn't we think of that!).

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Obituary: Dennis Sharp, 76. Architect, designer, historian, teacher and dedicated defender of the environment...his reputation in those fields rather overshadowed his considerable success as a working architect...became a prolific chronicler, often acerbic in his comments, of the architecture of his own time... By Joseph Rykwert - Guardian (UK)

These young, bright minds are the shape of Edmonton to come: ...the collective efforts of the finest, hippest architects and entrepreneurs will fail if we don't get the human equation right...NextGen report...states a clear need to get at the root causes of poverty, addiction and homelessness. Not just to make downtown appear safe. But as a statement of civic values. - Edmonton Journal (Canada)

The Slash Fund: ...while BP did cut corners and should be punished severely, the real culprit isn't any oil company, it's consumption itself...Ensuring safety is one challenge, but the bigger challenge is cutting demand. By Lance Hosey - Architect Magazine

Suburbia revised: Confronting shuttered shopping centers and empty big-boxes, developers try turning malls into Main Streets..."places like [Randhurst Village] become the equivalent of the village green." Perhaps, but some weaknesses already are apparent...there is reason to think that the mall's imperfect version of urbanism will cultivate a desire for more of the real thing... By Blair Kamin -- Victor Gruen (1962); Beame Architectural Partnership; 505 Design [images] - Chicago Tribune

A mixed track record: Mall makeovers produce varied outcomes in two Chicago suburbs, Schaumburg and Park Forest: The dramatic makeover of the Randhurst shopping center...is not the Chicago area's first example of a suburban retrofit. Two previous examples...reveal what to expect from the trend - for better and for worse. By Blair Kamin -- Antunovich Associates; Loebl, Schlossman & Bennett (1940s); Lakota Group [images] - Chicago Tribune

Lansdowne Park landscape plan 'pretty timid': Designer of renowned Chicago's Millennium Park unimpressed by Ottawa proposal...lacks the wow-factor that would make it a world-class design..."They took a lot of things from the plan that made it interesting. Is what's left going to create the excitement and fun that people want to have? I am not sure." -- Edward Uhlir - Ottawa Citizen (Canada)

Tides up on downtown's Water Street: Ambitious new plan calls for transforming the thoroughfare with the wider sidewalks, outdoor concerts and improved access to East River waterfront. -- Alliance for Downtown New York; Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects; FXFOWLE Architects; Sam Schwartz Engineering [image, link] - Crain's New York Business

Designer floats iceberg idea for stalled sites: Woods Bagot New York envisions tent-like snowy great whites rising on tracts around town where developers' plans have gone awry; ideal for stores or performance venues...100% recyclable structures that would serve as sort of architectural placeholders while developers struggle to regroup and restart their projects. [image] - Crain's New York Business

Tate debate: open your mind to public spaces: Our parks are in peril but it's not enough just to save them from funding cuts -- great public spaces need events that engage everyone. It is in the best of times that we expect to have great public spaces, but it is in the worst of economic times that we really need them to be great. - Guardian (UK)

Architect-designed accessibility: Alain de Botton...set out to change perceptions of modern architecture. He wants people to embrace rather than run from modern design and his method...is to educate people about better standards of buildings by helping them to experience it for themselves. -- Living Architecture; Urban Splash; Deyan Sudjic; Brett Steele/Architectural Association/ MVRDV; Nord Architecture; Jarmund Vignsnaes; Hopkins; Peter Zumthor - Financial Times (UK)

Who will follow Eli Broad as L.A.'s architectural patron? Wallis Annenberg, Casey Wasserman, Michael Govan and Eric Garcetti are among the contenders. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Frederick Fisher; Zoltan Pali; Peter Zumthor - Los Angeles Times

Dallas Police and Fire Pension System to fund condo project: 42-story Museum Tower will have more than 100 luxury residences, smack in the middle of the Arts District...will overlook the future Woodall Rodgers Park. -- Johnson Fain [image] - Dallas Morning News

Meet Tom de Paor: "4am" at the Biennale: ...a preview of 4am, his piece set to be part of the main show at the 2010 Venice Biennale and his co-curatorship of the Irish Pavilion. -- deBlacam and Meagher; Peter Maybury; Cian Deegan; Alice Casey [images, links] - Archiseek (Ireland)

A glimpse of a car-friendly urban future, courtesy of - no surprise - a car company: The Audi Urban Future Award is a

contest among six international architecture firms to envision futuristic cityscapes, circa 2030, with an emphasis on, ahem, personal transportation. -- [Standardarchitecture](#); [Diller Scofidio + Renfro](#); [Cloud 9](#); [Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG](#); [J. Mayer H. Architects](#); [Alison Brooks Architects](#) - [Scientific American](#)

A Recipe for Disaster Relief: Urban Assembly School for Design and Construction hosted an "Iron Designer" fundraiser...challenging contestants to build a full-size emergency shelter in three hours...some of the city's biggest architecture, construction, and engineering firms working alongside USADC students got busy...some really strange structures went up. -- [Omni Architects](#); [Perkins+Will](#); [Gensler](#) [images] - [Metropolis Magazine](#)

AIA selects the recipients for the 2010 Young Architects Forum/Committee on Design Ideas Competition: Program looks for innovative solutions to shelter needs following a disaster -- [Gene Kaufman Architect](#); [Jiyoun Kim](#); [Eric Polite](#) - [American Institute of Architects \(AIA\)](#)

Columbia University GSAPP Hosts Columbia Building Intelligence Project (C-BIP) London Think Tank on June 30 at the Design Museum: ...industry experts will explore solutions that could change the building industry...pushing...to think differently and transforming the way we educate the next generation of professionals. - [Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation](#)

[Beijing, China: What one girl does when it's hard to find parking](#) - [YouTube](#)



[Exhibition: Jim McHugh: Let's Get Lost, Timothy Yarger Gallery, Beverly Hills, California](#)

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